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The proposed sale of The Boeing Co.'s satellite-guided smart-bomb kits to Saudi Arabia is drawing bipartisan opposition in Congress that could block the transaction, according to correspondence released Monday.

A Thursday letter from 188 lawmakers to President Bush asked for "solid assurances" that the weapons, intended for defense against Iran, won't be used against Israel. Its signers include the ranking Republicans on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and defense appropriations subcommittee.

"Without such assurances, we will oppose the sale," said the letter, orchestrated by Reps. Mark Kirk, R-Ill., and Christopher Carney, D-Pa. The letter didn't say whether the promise can be in writing or must include technical changes such as making the bomb less accurate.

The concerns signal a political fight over plans to sell Persian Gulf allies up to \$20 billion in arms as a way to counter any Iranian threat in the region.

The letter includes 47 lawmakers who signed a similar letter in August that had 114 signatories opposing any weapons sales to the Saudi government.

"The numbers of signatures are so large they would be wise to heed our counsel very directly," Kirk said Monday.

State Department spokesman Jay Greer said the agency had no immediate comment on the letter.

Among the names on Thursday's letter are Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, the top Republican

on the House Foreign Affairs panel; C.W. "Bill" Young, the ranking Republican on the House defense panel; and the Select Intelligence Committee's top Republican, Rep. Peter Hoekstra.

The Foreign Affairs Committee's No. 2 Democrat, Rep. Howard Berman also signed.

The kits, which the U.S. has sold to Israel and the United Arab Emirates, allow bombs to be converted into precision-guided weapons that can hit within 20 feet of the target.

Press TV: US lawmakers rap Saudi arms deal

US House of Representatives has voiced deep concern over reported US plans to sell billions of dollars in advanced arms to Saudi Arabia.

If the technology fell into the "wrong hands", it could harm US forces in the Middle East and threaten Israel, the lawmakers warned US President George W. Bush on Tuesday.

"Any sale of JDAM (Joint Direct Attack Munition) technology to Saudi Arabia must come with guarantees backed by strict conditions notified to Congress followed by regular reporting," they noted.

According to reports, Republican congressman Mark Kirk and Democrat Christopher Carney coordinated the letter which contained the signatures of 188 members of both parties.

The deal comes at a time when Iran is making strenuous efforts to prove the transparency and peaceful nature of its nuclear program and that is yielding positive results.